ARTICLES OF ENQUIRY

Concerning MATTERS

Ecclesiastical,

Within the

DIOCESE of *LINCOLNE*,

In the

Triennial Episcopal VISITATION

OF THE

Right Reverend Father in God

WILLIAM

Lord Bishop of *LINCOLNE*

Anno Dom. 1674.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

THe Minister and Church-wardens are to call unto them the Parishioners, and out of them to make choice of two of the discreetest to be Side-men, and they all together are to read over these Articles divers times.

Then after they have duly considered of them they are to write an Answer or Presentment unto every Article particularly, and truly according to their Consciences.

Then they are all of them to bring their Presentments to the Visitation, and there the Church-wardens, and Sides-men upon their Oaths, are to deliver them up under their hands, to the Lord Bishop or his Visitors. The Minister is to put them in mind of such things as he knoweth needful to be presented, and in case they neglect, to give notice thereof to the Bishop or his Visitors, according to the 113. Canon.

Every Minister is required to see this punctually performed.

The Tenor of the Oath to be Administred to the Church-wardens and Side-men of every Parish.

YOu shall Swear to enquire with your best Diligence, and to Present every Person that now is, or of late was, inhabiting within your Parish, That hath done any Offence against any of His Majesties Ecclesiastical Laws. And this you shall do as in the Sight of God, uprightly and truly, without Favour or Malice, Hope of Reward, or Fear of Displeasure.

So help you God.

BIBLIOTHECA BODLEIANA

ARTICLES OF INSTRUCTION,

To the Church-wardens and Side-men, in some more special Matters to direct their Inquiry and Presentments.

TITUL. I.

Concerning Churches and Chappels, with the Ornaments and Furniture thereunto belonging.

I. IS your Parish Church or Chappel kept in good and sufficient repair? Are the Roofs thereof well covered with Lead, Tyle, or Slate? the Windows well Glazed, the Floors well paved, the Seats well fastned and conveniently placed, and all things so decently ordered, as becometh the House of God?

II. Hath the Steeple or Tower of your Church or Chappel, or any part thereof, been pulled down, or any of the Lead or Bells formerly belonging thereunto been imbezeled, sold, or made away? In whose hands or Custody doth the same, or any part thereof remain? Declare what you know or have heard therein.

III. Is

III. Is there a Font of Stone, with a good Cover thereunto, ſtanding in a convenient place, towards the lower part of your Church for the Adminiſtration of Baptiſm? And is there in your Chancel, a decent Communion Table, for the Adminiſtration of the Lords Supper, with a Carpet of Silk, Stuff, or fine Woollen Cloath, and another Covering of White and pure Linnen, to ſpread thereupon? And have you a fair Communion Cup, or Chalice, with a Cover of Silver, and one or more Flaggons of Silver or Pewter thereunto belonging?

IV. Have you in your ſaid Church or Chappel, a convenient Seat, or Pew, for your Miniſter to read Divine Service in? A Pulpit with a comely Cloth or Cuſhion for the ſame? A Bible of the laſt Tranſlation, in a large Volume, and two Books of Common Prayer, all well and ſubſtantially bound? Have you alſo the Book of Homilies ſet forth by Authority? A Book of Canons and Conſtitutions Eccleſiaſtical? And a Printed Table of the Degrees wherein Marriage is prohibited?

V. Have you a comely large Surplice for the Miniſter to wear at all times of his publick Miniſtration in the Church provided; and to be duly waſhed at the Charge of your Pariſh?

VI. Have you a Regiſter Book of Parchment for all who are Chriſtned, Married, or Buried in your Pariſh? Doth your Miniſter every Lords Day, in the preſence of your Church-wardens, ſet down the Names of Parties, with the Day, Moneth, and Year of each Chriſtning, Marriage, or Burial? Is the Tranſcript thereof every year, within one Month after the 25. of *March* carried into the Biſhops Regiſtry?

VII. Have you likewiſe another Book of Paper wherein to Record the Names and Licences of all ſuch Strangers as are admitted at any time to Preach in your Church or Chappel? And alſo a third Book wherein to write down the Church-wardens Accounts: together with a ſtrong Cheſt, with Locks and Keys, wherein to keep the aforementioned Books, and all the aforementioned Furniture in ſafe Cuſtody? And laſtly, have you a Bier, with a black Herſe Cloth for the Burial of the Dead?

VIII. Have any new Pews, or Seats been erected in your Chancel, or in the Body of the Church, (or Chappel) without Licence from the Ordinary?

TIT.

TIT. II.

Concerning the Church-yard, the Houſes, Glebes, and Tithes, belonging to the Church.

I. IS your Church-yard ſufficiently fenced with Walls, Rails, or Pales, and decently kept from the annoyance of Swine, Horſes and other Cattle? Hath any perſon incroached upon the ſame, or made any Door into it, out of his own ground, or habitation, without allowance from the Ordinary? Have any Trees there growing been cut down? How long ſince, by whom, and to whoſe uſe and benefit?

II. Is the Houſe of your Parſon, Vicar, or Curate (with all the Out-houſes thereunto belonging) kept in good and ſufficient Repair? Or have any of the ſaid Houſes or Out-houſes been defaced or pulled down without Licence from the Ordinary? and by whom? Hath any Perſon incroached upon any Garden, Yard, or Cloſe, belonging to your Parſonage or Vicarage-houſe? or cut up any Trees growing thereon? or changed, or removed the Ancient marks and Bounds of the ſame?

III. Have you a true and perfect Terrier of all the Glebe-Lands, Gardens, Orchards, Tenements, or Cottages belonging to your Parſonage or Vicarage? As alſo a particular of ſuch Penſions, Rate-Tithes, and Portions of Tithes, or other yearly Profits (either within or without your Pariſh) as belong thereunto? Hath any of the ſame been with-held from your Miniſter? and by whom, as you know or have heard?

IV. Have any of the ancient Glebe-Lands belonging to your Parſonage or Vicarage, been taken away or exchanged for others, without the free conſent of the Incumbent or Licence from the Ordinary? Have any Incloſures been made in your Pariſh, by converting Arable Land into Paſture? By whom hath the ſame been made? and how many years ſince?

TIT. III.

Concerning Miniſters.

I. IS your Miniſter a Prieſt or Deacon Epiſcopally Ordained, according to the Laws of the Church of *England*?

II. Is he defamed, or ſuſpected to have obtained either his Benefice or Orders by any Simoniacal compact?

III. Hath

III. Hath he been legally Instituted and Inducted into his Benefice? and did he within two Months after his Induction, publickly in the Church upon some Sunday or Holy-day, in the time of Divine Service, read the 39 Articles of the Church of *England*, established by Authority, and there publickly declare his assent thereunto?

IV. Hath he any other Ecclesiastical Benefice, Prebend, or Dignity? Is he constantly resident upon his Benefice among you? How many Weeks in any one year hath he been absent from it without urgent necessity?

V. Hath your Minister a Curate to assist him? Is the said Curate in Holy Orders, an able, and discreet Person, and conformable to the Laws and Orders of the Church of *England*? Is he allowed by the Bishop to serve in your Church or Chappel? and doth he serve in any other Church beside? And what yearly stipend doth your Minister allow him?

VI. Doth your Parson, Vicar, or Curate in reading the daily Morning and Evening Service, Administration of the Holy Sacraments, Celebration of Matriage, Churching of Women after Child-birth, Visitation of the Sick, Burial of the Dead, and pronouncing God's Comminations against impenitent Sinners, use the Form and Words prescribed in the Book of Common-Prayer, without any Addition, Omission, or Alteration of the same? And doth he use all such Rites and Ceremonies in all parts of Divine Service, as are appointed in the said Book?

VII. Doth your Minister at the Reading or Celebrating any Divine Office in your Church or Chappel, wear the Surplice, together with such other Scholastical Habit as is suitable to his Degree?

VIII. Doth he observe the Holy-dayes and Fasting-dayes, as also the Ember-Weeks, and the yearly Perambulation in Rogation Week, as in the Common-Prayer Book, or by the Ecclesiastical Canons, is appointed? giving notice to the Parishioners of every of the same in the Church, in the time of Divine Service, upon the Sunday next before? Doth he give notice of the Celebration of the Holy Communion on the Lords-day, or some Holy day immediately preceding? and doth he then Read the Exhortation enjoyned by the Rubrick?

IX. Hath your Minister been Licenced to Preach by the Bishop or either of the two Universities? If so, doth he then constantly (unless in Case of sickness, necessary absence, or other reasonable impediment) Minister Preach in your Church or Chappel, one Sermon every Sunday? Or if he be not a Licensed Preacher, or being Licensed be hindred by sickness, or otherwise, as aforesaid? Doth he procure a Sermon to be so Preached by some other Minister, a Licensed Preacher? Or one of the

the Homilies set forth by Authority to be there read by a Priest or Deacon lawfully Ordained?

X. Doth your Minister diligently instruct the Youth of your Parish in the Church-Chatechism? and doth he prepare and present them, being so instructed, to be confirmed by the Bishop? And doth he endeavour to reclaim all Popish Recusants, and other *Sectaries* (if any such be inhabiting within your Parish) to the true Religion established in the Church of *England*, and to their bounden Duty in obeying the Laws, and submitting to the Government thereof?

XI. Doth he neglect to Visit the *Sick*, or delay the Baptism of any Infant? Is there any Child, or other Person of more years, through your Minister's default, yet remaining unbaptized in your Parish? Doth he Baptize any without God-fathers and God-mothers? or admit either of the Parents to be God-father or God-mother to their own Children?

XII. Doth your Minister after private Baptism, openly in the Church examine, whether, and by whom such Child has been Baptized, and doth he perform all matters relating thereunto according to the Rubrick?

XIII. Hath he presumed to Marry any Persons in private Houses? or such as being under age, have not the consent of their Parents? or without the Banes first published on *Sundays* or Holy-dayes in the Church? or at any other hours than between Eight and Twelve in the Morning?

XIV. Doth any Person Preach in your Parish as a Lecturer? Hath he allowance from the Bishop for so doing? Doth he, before his Lecture, read Divine *Service*, according to the Book of Common-Prayer? and is he in all respects conformable to the Laws and Orders of the Church of *England*?

XV. Hath your Minister taken upon him to appoint any publick or private Fasts, Prophecyings, or Exercises, not appointed by Authority? or doth he or any other, either Minister or Lay-person, hold any Conventicles or Meetings in private Houses within your Parish, for people of several Families to resort unto, under the pretence of Preaching, Praying, Thanksgiving, or Humiliation, contrary to the Laws and Canons in that Case provided?

XVI. Is your Parson, Vicar, Curate, or Lecturer a man of sober unblameable and exemplary life? Doth he familiarly converse with ungodly, Vicious, and Excommunicate Persons? Is he a frequenter of Taverns and Ale-houses? a Common Gamester? a prophane or obscene Jester? a *Swearer*, Railer, *Scoffer*, or Quarreller? Doth he set Neighbours

bours at variance one with another? or incourage them to ſuits and contention? Is he noted to be an intemperate Drinker? or vehemently ſuſpected of incontinency with any Perſon, either within your Pariſh or without? Doth he wear his Hair of an immoderate or uncomely length? Is his Apparel grave and decent, both for Faſhion and Colour, as the Canons of the Church require? Or is his carriage and converſation in any kind whatſoever, diſorderly or ſcandalous, and unbeſeeming a Miniſter of Jeſus Chriſt?

TIT. IV.

Concerning the Pariſhioners.

I. IS there in your Pariſh any Perſon a known or reputed Heretick or Schiſmatick? any Papiſt, Familiſt, Anabaptiſt, Quaker, or other Sectary, that refuſe to come unto the Publick Aſſemblies, Prayers or Services of the Church? or that makes profeſſion of any other Religion than what is eſtabliſhed in the Church of *England*? and if there be any ſuch, what are their Names?

II. Is there any Perſon in your Pariſh that lyeth under a Common Fame, or vehement ſuſpicion of Adultery, Fornication, or Inceſt? Are there any Common Drunkards within your Pariſh? or Common Swearers, or Blaſphemers of Gods Name, or any that are noted to be Railers, unclean or filthy Talkers, or ſowers of Sedition, Faction, and Diſcord amongſt their Neighbours?

III. Do any of your Pariſh upon Sundayes or Holy-dayes follow their bodily or ordinary labour? or permit their Servants ſo to do? are any Shops kept open, or Wares ſold? or do any Vintners, Inn-keepers or other Victuallers and Sellers of Beer or Ale, ſuffer any Perſons to Tipple or Game in their Houſes upon thoſe dayes?

IV. Doth every Perſon inhabiting and ſojourning within your Pariſh, duely reſort unto your Church or Chappel upon every Sunday and Holy-day appointed for Divine Service? Do they then and there abide quietly, with Reverence, Order, and Decency, during the whole time of Common-Prayer, Preaching, or other Service of God there uſed? and are there any among you, that come only to the Preaching, and not to the Common Prayers of the Church?

V. Doth every Perſon reverently uncover his head, and ſo continue all the time of Divine Service in the Church? Do they all reverently kneel at the Prayers, and ſtand up when the Creed and Goſpel are read, making due Reverence when the Name of our Lord Jeſus is mentioned?

Are

VI. Are there any in your Parish that refuse to send their Infant Children to be Baptized publickly in the Church, unless in case of urgent danger, (in which case the Child may be Baptized at home by a lawful Minister, after the Form and Rites appointed in the Liturgy? Or do they send them to be Baptized in other Parishes, or after other Form than is appointed? Or do they keep them unbaptized any longer time than the Church alloweth? And are there any Infants, or more aged Persons in your Parish as yet unbaptized?

VII. Doth every Housholder in your Parish cause their Children and Servants to learn their Catechism, and to give an account thereof unto your Minister, as he shall require it of them openly in the Church upon Sundayes and Holy-dayes, as in the Book of mommon-Prayer is appointed? That when they are well instructed in the same, they may be confirmed by the Bishop?

VIII. Ist here any Person in your Parish, who being 16 years of age, and well instructed in Religion, doth not receive the Sacrament of the Lords Supper, at least three times in the year, of which *Easter* is alwayes to be one? Doth any in your Parish refuse to receive the same kneeling, or from the hands of your own Minister, repairing for it to other Parishes and Ministers abroad? Orare there any Strangers not not of your Parish that forsake their own Churches and usually repair to yours for it?

IX. Have you any among you that be denounced and declared excommunicate for any Crime committed? How long have they been so excommunicated? And do any of your Parish keep society with them, before they be reconciled to the Church and absolved?

X. Are there any in your Parish, who are known or suspected to be unlawfully Married, contrary to the Laws of God and this Church? Are there any (who being lawfully Married and never Divorced) do yet live asunder? Or any who being lawfully Divorced, do live together again? Or being separated for Adultery, have afterwards intermarried with any other, during the life of their first Consort?

XI. Are there any Married Women in your Parish, who after their safe Delivery from Child-birth, neglect to make their humble and publick Thanksgivings to God, decently apparelled, according to the appointment of the Church? or refuse to pay the Offerings according to Custom.

XII. Are there any belonging to your Parish who refuse to pay their Duty for *Easter* Offerings to your Minister? Or any that refuse to contribute and pay the Rate assessed upon them for the Repair of your Church or Chappel, and for the providing of such Books, Furniture,

and Ornaments as be requisite for the performance of all Divine Offices there?

XIII. Do any refuse to bury their Dead, according to the Rites of the Church of *England*? And are there any Wills or Testaments of Persons dead in your Parish that be yet unproved? Or any Goods Administred without a due graunt from the Ordinary? Did any Dying in your Parish, or elsewhere leave any Legacy, to your Church or Chappel, or to the use of the Poor, or to any other pious and charitable purposes? What were those Legacies? and how have they been bestowed?

XIV. Do you know, or have you heard of any Patron or other Person in your Parish, having the Presentation or Gift of any Ecclesiastical Benefice, who hath made gain thereof by Presenting a Clerk or Minister to it upon any bargain, either for any Money, or Pension, or Lease, Reserve of Tithes or Glebe, or any part thereof, or upon other Simoniacal compact whatsoever?

TIT. V.

Concerning the Officers belonging to the Church.

I. ARe the Church-wardens of your Parish yearly chosen according to Law? And are there Side-men appointed to assist them for the due ordering of the Church?

II. Have the former and last Church-wardens given up their Accompts to those that succeed them, together with all Moneys and other things belonging to your Church or Chappel?

III. Have you a Parish Clerk aged One and twenty years at least, who is of sober life and good Report? Is he chosen by your Minister, and approved by your Parish? and is he able for Reading, Writing, and Singing, as a Clerk? Are his Wages duly paid him?

IV. Doth He or your Sexton take care of your Church, to keep it Lock'd, and clean, to open the Doors, and Ring the Bells in due time, to call the Inhabitants to the Worship of God? And when any Person is passing out of this Life, doth he, upon notice given him thereof, toll a Bell, as hath been accustomed, that the Neighbours may thereby be warned to recommend the dying Person to the Grace and favour of God?

TIT. VI.

Concerning Hoſpitals, Schools, School-Maſters, Phyſitians, Chirurgeons and Midwives.

I. IS there any Hoſpital, Alms-Houſe, or Free-School founded in your Pariſh? Who was the Founder, or is now the Patron thereof? And what is the yearly Revenue, or ſtipend belonging to the Governours or Maſters of the ſame? Is the ſame ordered and governed in every reſpect as it ought to be? and are the Revenues thereof rightly imployed, according to the intention of the Founder, and of ſuch Grants and Ordinances, as have been made concerning the ſame?

II. Doth any Man keep a Publick or Private School in your Pariſh who is not allowed thereunto by the Biſhop? Doth your School-Maſter teach his Scholars the Catechiſm of Religion ſet forth by Authority? Doth he cauſe them on Sundays and Holy-days orderly to repair to your Church or Chappel? and ſee that they behave themſelves there quietly and Reverently, during the time of Divine Service and Sermon?

III. Doth any man in your Pariſh practiſe Phyſick, or Chirurgery, or any Woman take upon her to exerciſe the Office of a Mid-wife, without approbation and Licenſe from the Ordinary?

Guil. Lincoln.

THe Miniſter and Church-wardens are deſired to give in an account of what Moneys have been paid from their reſpective Pariſhes towards the Redemption of the Captives in Algiers, *and to whom? And likewiſe if there be any Money remaining in their hands upon that account to bring it in at this Viſitation.*

FINIS.